Climate Change

A RENEWED GLOBAL AMBITION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Business & Investment

FROM THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL SPACE PLAN TO THE MARKETING OF SPACE SERVICES: THE CASE OF THE ARGENTINE COMPANY VENG

G-20

FIRST MEETING OF THE CULTURE WORKING GROUP

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

APRIL 2021 // NEWSLETTER

CLIMATE CHANGE | ARG IN FOCUS



A RENEWED GLOBAL AMBITION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

On Friday, April 23, President Joseph Biden closed the Leaders' Summit on Climate Change, thus fulfilling in his first 100 days in office, the objective of bringing together the world's major leaders to boost greater ambition, commitments, and efforts to tackle the key existential challenge of our time: climate change.

In Argentina we have particularly appreciated and supported this initiative of President Biden, coordinated and moderated by his Special Envoy for Climate, John Kerry, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and other high-level officials of the US government. We appreciate their having created this event, its efficient organization in such a challenging context, and especially, the results achieved.

In addition to the 40 Heads of State and Government invited to this Summit, Pope Francis, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, the highest authorities of



Drice again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes in article about the Leaders' Summit on Climate Change and Argentina´s commitment to the Paris Agreement and determination to further increase its National Contribution.

n this edition we include an article on Argentina´s National Space Plan and the industry's nomentum and growth in technological development for space use.

Finally, an article on the participation on the First Meeting of the Culture Working Group of the G20 in preparation for the II Meeting of G20 Ministers of Culture.

Jorge Argüello Ambassador to the United States OUR COUNTRY WILL RAISE ITS NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION BY 27.7% COMPARED TO THE ONE ANNOUNCED IN 2016; A STEP FORWARD TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRALITY SET AS A GOAL FOR 2050.

international financial organizations, and leaders of the private sector and civil society, also participated.

In his address, President Alberto Fernández highlighted that our commitment to the Paris Agreement is reflected in our determination to further increase climate ambition. First, the President highlighted that Argentina would increase its National Contribution by 27.7% compared to the one announced in 2016; this represents a step forward towards carbon neutrality, set as a goal by 2050.

Likewise, President Fernández announced that our country is committed to develop 30% of the national energy matrix using renewable sources by 2030, and that this commitment will be accompanied by the design of a plan of efficiency measures for the energy, industrial, transportation, and construction sectors.

On the other hand, President Fernández stated that cutting-edge technologies will be adopted to reduce emissions of methane and short-lived pollutants; a hydrogen producing and exporting complex will be created as an energy vector at the national level; as to land use, the President announced urgent and strong measures would be adopted to eradicate illegal deforestation, classifying it as an environmental crime, and our ecosystems' restoration will be promoted. However, aware of the need to have the necessary resources to carry out such a plan, President Alberto Fernández considers that a dialogue must take place; one aimed at international redesigning the financial architecture, enabling to make progress towards a just transition, including the level of overindebtedness of developing countries and meet the needs of greater access to climate financing. This can be achieved through a greater mobilization of concessional and nonreimbursable resources to developing countries, as well as innovative mechanisms to implement climate action, such as payments for ecosystem services, or the concept of environmental debt, debt swaps for climate action, new allocations of special drawing rights, and greater flexibility regarding the terms and rates to address overindebtedness.

There were also other announcements of great significance by many countries with systemic weight, which allow us to look towards the future with renewed optimism. In his closing address, President J. Biden highlighted the positive impact in terms of the greater ambition and the real possibility of maintaining the goal of a maximum increase of 1.5 degrees C in the planet's temperature, following the announcements made by the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52% by the end of this decade, as well as other announcements made by Japan and Canada, and the commitments made by the EU and the UK at a similar level of ambition. President Biden also referred to the encouraging news from Argentina, Brazil, South Africa and South Korea in this regard.

FROM THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL SPACE PLAN TO THE MARKETING OF SPACE SERVICES: THE CASE OF THE ARGENTINE COMPANY VENG

The key objective of the National Space Plan of Argentina is the development of space knowledge and technology, with three components: Earth observation, exploration and peaceful use of outer space, and technological development for space use.

Regarding the last component, the momentum and growth of the national industry is vital. In this edition of Argentina in Focus, we wanted to learn more about this part of the plan, by interviewing José Luis Randazzo, the General Manager of VENG, a contracting company and commercial manager of several space projects promoted by CONAE (National Commission of Space Activities).

This Argentine company offers high-value-added technology and services company, specializing in the space industry, with more than 13 years of

experience in large projects, such as the development of experimental prototypes of satellite launchers, and the SAC-D/Aquarius and SAOCOM satellite missions. It also operated earth stations, satellite Mission Operation Centers (MOC), and, more recently, the marketing of the images of the SAOCOM Argentine satellites, as it seeks to maximize the socioeconomic benefits that the satellite mission generates at a global level. Besides these projects, the company is expanding and enhancing the range of engineering, manufacturing, integration and testing services it offers, not only to the space industry, but also to the high-tech consumer industry in general.

Within this framework of commercial activities, this Argentine company has made diverse commercial agreements worldwide, particularly in the US market.



THE DATA OBTAINED AND PROCESSED FROM SAOCOM ARE ESSENTIAL FOR STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING AND CAN BE USED TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN EVENTS.

The following is our interview with Mr. Randazzo, to learn more about the company's development:

Argentina in Focus: The operation of earth stations has resulted in commercial agreements with US companies and the government. Can you tell us about these agreements?

José Luis Randazzo: Since 2009 we have participated in the operation of the earth stations owned by CONAE, providing science data download services, Telemetry, Tracking and Command or TT&C, and antenna hosting, among others. These earth stations are strategically located in the center and south of the country, in the provinces of Córdoba and Tierra del Fuego respectively, providing an unsurpassed location in South America for marketing these services, either to entities that have satellite missions or service providers to global earth stations, which can add the services offered by VENG to their coverage networks.

In 2020, we signed an agreement with VIASAT, an important company in the United States, to provide download services and we also provided support by hosting an antenna to SpaceX for the Starlink project. This last service was provided through an agreement that we have since a few years ago with the Norwegian firm K-SAT, also a global provider of earth station services.

Additionally, by the end of 2020, we signed a memorandum of understanding with CompTIA (Computing Technology Industry Association) in North America, with the aim of promoting and strengthening closer spatial cooperation between both countries, thereby fostering the development of new opportunities.

AIF: Regarding the company's innovation portfolio, particularly regarding the SAOCOM constellation and its products and services, what prospects do you foresee in the future?

JLR: SAOCOM provides information that is highly innovative for the development of applications, thanks to the unique and distinctive L-Band SAR Radar technology of the constellation's satellites. With this major feature they can monitor the Earth both day and night, regardless of weather conditions. It can also penetrate ground cover and soil, collecting valuable information on soil moisture.

We are currently providing SAOCOM satellite images to different companies around the world, both directly and also through our partners thanks to different distribution agreements, in order to enhance SAOCOM's reach globally.

The data obtained and processed from SAOCOM are essential for strategic decision-making and can be used to prevent and mitigate environmental and human events. Some examples are the following: soil drifts, soil moisture maps, oil and gas extraction monitoring, flood and drought monitoring, glacier drifts, urban drinking water leak detection, oil spill and ship monitoring, and infrastructure studies, among others.

In the case of United States, we have identified a

huge potential for uses by industries such as mining, agriculture, oil and gas.

At VENG, our mission is to promote adopt of SAOCOM worldwide, for which, in addition to the marketing of images, we have begun to provide interferometry services and we created strategic alliances for the development of different applications based on satellite information.

AIF: How do you see the distribution and marketing of the services of the SAOCOM constellation in the US market, considering that they are almost the only ones operating within the L-band, with the exception of Japanese satellite services?

JLR: Indeed, Argentine SAOCOM satellites, together with the Japanese ALOS2 satellite, are the only L-Band radars currently operating. Meanwhile, there are many US companies that offer services based on satellite information, covering the monitoring of infrastructure, natural resources and the environment, productive activities related to mining, oil and gas, agriculture, maritime surveillance, among many others, to which SAOCOM offers a high availability service that is 100% focused on the needs of its clients, accelerating the early adoption process for adding it to their business models.

Therefore, we have great expectations of the insertion and distribution of SAOCOM technology in the United States and we invite you to visit our website: www.veng.com.ar and our search and quotation platform: www.saocom1a.com.ar.

For more information: sales.sat@veng.com.ar

G-20 | ARG IN FOCUS



Virtual Meeting of the G20 Culture Working Group

FIRST MEETING OF THE CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The Italian presidency of the G20 held the First Meeting of the Culture Working Group as part of the preparations for the II Meeting of G20 Ministers of Culture.

This G20 working group was created to provide support for the first G20 Ministerial Conference on Culture, to be held under the Italian Presidency, and scheduled for May 3. Its main objective is to bring the preservation of cultural heritage to the forefront of global attention, with particular emphasis on illicit trafficking, the links between culture and climate change, and the interactions between culture, education and training.

As part of the G20 decision-making process, the Working Groups are in charge of leading an indepth analysis of diverse issues of international relevance. The members are experts from the G20 countries and address specific issues linked to the broader G20 agenda, providing input to the ministerial segments and ultimately the Summit itself. Representing Argentina's Ministry of Culture, Francisco Taiana, Director of International Cooperation, and Jimena Rodriguez, advisor to the National Directorate for Federal Integration and International Cooperation participated in the meeting.

Building on the work of previous presidencies and, in particular, of the ministerial meeting on culture held on the margins of the G20 in 2020, entitled "The Rise of the Cultural Economy: A New Paradigm", organized by the Saudi G20 Presidency and held on November 4th. In 2020, this first meeting of the working group discussed and exchanged ideas regarding the three priorities proposed by Italy in cultural matters: protection of cultural heritage and fight against illicit trafficking in cultural properties; dealing with the climate crisis through culture; and capacity building through training and education.

In turn, the Argentine delegation highlighted the efforts undertaken for the recognition of ESMA (Former Center for Detention, Torture and Extermination) as a cultural heritage of Mercosur.

CULTURAL HERITAGE — UNIQUE AND UNREPEATABLE, WHICH CONTAINS THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF A PEOPLE— IS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTE WORLD PEACE.

It currently operates a museum based on the following three pillars: preservation, reflection and transmission.

The cultural sector is a substantial agent of development, it enables mitigating social inequalities by generating employment opportunities and has a positive impact on the economic, social and environmental dimensions; this has been proven that the deployment of public policies in this field is desirable and necessary. In this regard, the Argentine representation also pointed out that cultural heritage —unique and unrepeatable, which contains the past, present and future of a people — is essential to promote world peace.

For these policies to form a virtuous circle, a strategy that focuses on the training of its cultural agents is required: they should have a solid knowledge about the natural, material and intangible cultural heritage, national artistic productions, as well as the ecosystem of their cultural industries which encompass symbolism and identity. Through training and increasing specialized knowledge, these resources must be protection, and awareness raised about their value for the benefit of current and future generations. The Argentine representation urged the participants to think about joint and coordinated policies that support the exchange of goods, services and cultural consumption, while also generating areas of work among our creators and experts, among our industries, and strengthening networks that allow an expansion of these interactions. In the current global context, international cooperation plays a key role in underpinning the implementation of global and regional public policies that benefit our countries. Therefore, it is important to continue promoting heritage protection policies that strengthen different aspects of cultural industries, to provide momentum to this sector and alleviate the consequences of the crisis caused by COVID 19.

Among the possible areas of common action, the following were identified: procedures for the exchange of information and good practices, education, awareness, promotion of a culture of prevention and a better use of the opportunities offered by new technologies.

In 2021, the Italian Presidency of the G20 will involve stakeholders and civil society so that they contribute their perspectives on the established priorities. As a result of each conference, a declaration will be issued and spread among the Ministers of Culture, thereby enriching the ministerial meeting through the contribution of the areas of international cooperation of each institution, the enriching observations made by international organizations in the area of culture, and the invaluable contribution of civil society, which will join the debate in April, at different levels in webinars and public conferences.

Facebook: ARGinUSA Twitter: ARGinUSA Instagram: ARGinUSA Flickr: /photos/ARGinUSA arginfocus@embassyofargentina.us eeeuu.cancilleria.gob.ar